

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 PARIS 17865 01 OF 02 281919 Z

43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 RSR-01 /079 W

----- 077737

O R 281756 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1393

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION USNATO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMCONSUL BORDEAUX

AMCONSUL LYON

AMCONSUL MARSEILLE

AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE

AMCONSUL NICE

AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 PARIS 17865

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, FR

SUBJ: INTERVIEW BY FOREIGN MINISTER MICHEL JOBERT

1. INTERVIEW IN JUNE 25 LE POINT MAGAZINE, MODERATE, PRO-
GOVERNMENT WEEKLY, REVEALS ASPECTS OF FOREIGN MINISTER'S
JOBERT'S BACKGROUND, PERSONALITY AND PHILOSOPHY WHICH, GIVEN
HIS EXTREME RETICENCE, WERE HITHERTO NOT WIDELY KNOWN. THIS
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 PARIS 17865 01 OF 02 281919 Z

TELEGRAM IS A RESUME OF SOME OF JOBERT' S MORE INTERESTING COMMENTS. COPIES OF FULL TEXT OF ARTICLE POUCHED TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR EUR/ WE. (GIST RATHER THAN EXACT TRANSLATION OF JOBERT' S REMARKS OFFERED BELOW)

2. WHILE THE SKELETON FACTS OF JOBERT' S BOYHOOD IN MOROCCO AND UNIVERSITY EDUCATION IN FRANCE ARE PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE (SEE PARIS 9775), IT WAS NOT WIDELY KNOWN BEFORE THE INTERVIEW THAT JOBERT CAME FROM AN EXTREMELY POOR FAMILY. HE DID NOT ATTEND SCHOOL UNTIL THE AGE OF ELEVEN. THE FARM ON WHICH HE LIVED WITH HIS FAMILY IN MOROCCO HAD NO ELECTRICITY UNTIL 1938. JOBERT EXPLAINS HIS CAPACITY FOR HARD WORK, HIS SHYNESS AND WHAT HE CALLS HIS " FATALISTIC APPROACH TO LIFE" BY REFERRING TO THESE EARLY, FORMATIVE YEARS IN MOROCCO. HE EXPLAINS HIS LACK OF A NORMAL GALLIC PENCHANT FOR DISCUSSING POLITICS BY THE FACT THAT HE SPENT ONLY A FEW MONTHS IN FRANCE PRIOR TO THE AGE OF EIGHTEEN. HE SAID THAT HIS ATTITUDE TOWARDS PARISIAN POLITICS AND CULTURE WHEN HE BEGAN LIVING IN PARIS AFTER THE WAR WAS, FIRST, OVERAWE, FOLLOWED BY KEEN BUT RESERVED INTEREST. WHEN PRESSED BY THE INTERVIEWER, LE POINT JORRNALIST GEORGES SUFFERT, ABOUT HIS POLITICAL VIEWS AT THAT TIME, JOBERT RESPONDED, " IT MAY BE DIFFICULT FOR YOU TO UNDERSTAND, BUT I AM AN OBSERVER. I HAVE OPINIONS BUT HAVE ALWAYS SEEN NO REASON TO DISCUSS MY VIEWS WHEN I KNOW THEY WILL BE WITHOUT EFFECT."

3. IN THE EARLY 195 0' S, AFTER WORKING FOR A TIME AT THE COUR DES COMPTES, JOBERT JOINED THE STAFF OF PIERRE ABELIN, THE MRP MINISTER OF FINANCE. HE SUBSEQUENTLY SERVED IN SEVERAL OTHER MRP MINISTRIES AND CABINETS, BUT EVENTUALLY JOINED MENDES-FRANCE. WHEN ASKED BY SUFFERT IF, IN FACT, HIS SWITCH FROM THE CATHOLIC, MORE CONSERVATIVE MRP PARTY TO THE LEFT- OF- CENTER MENDES- FRANCE DIDN' T REPRESENT A CHANGE IN ALLIANCE OR A NEW POLITICAL COMMITMENT, JOBERT RESPONDED, " I ADMIT IT. LET' S SAY THAT AT THAT MOMENT I THOUGHT THAT ADOPTING AN OPINION WAS IMPORTANT. IN ANY CASE, I REGRET NEITHER THAT OPINION NOR THAT ENGAGEMENT." JOBERT ADDED THAT WHILE WORKING FOR MENDES- FRANCE IT WAS HIS JOB TO MEET WITH DELEGATES OF VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONS WHO WERE PASSIONATELY OPPOSED TO EUROPEAN DEFENSE COMMUNITY. " I THOUGHT THAT THERE WERE SO MANY VOICES READY TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 PARIS 17865 01 OF 02 281919 Z

PREACH AGAINST EUROPE," HE CONTINUED, " THAT I CAME TO BELIEVE THAT THERE MUST BE A MISUNDERSTANDING ABOUT THE WHOLE QUESTION. EUROPE DIDN' T SEEM TO MERIT THAT MUCH NERVOUSENESS. I UNDERSTOOD AT THAT MOMENT THAT IT IS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL TO TREAT MOST PROBLEMS DISPASSIONATELY."

4. RESPONDING TO A QUESTION ABOUT HIS WORK WITH POMPIDOU

WHEN THE LATTER WAS OUT OF POWER AND WORKING FROM A SMALL OFFICE ON THE LEFT BANK OF PARIS, JOBERT SAID THAT HIS PRINCIPAL TASKS WAS TO TAKE CARE OF THE MAIL. "DON'T LOOK ASTONISHED," HE SAID, "THE DAILY MAIL IS VERY IMPORTANT AND MOREOVER, I HAVE A TASTE FOR DETAILS. IN FACT, I ADORE DETAILS."

5. ASKED ABOUT HIS STRAIGHTFORWARD, ALMOST BLUNT SPEECHES IN BRUSSELS SINCE BECOMING FOREIGN MINISTER, JOBERT SAID:
"I SIMPLY DECIDED IT WAS NECESSARY TO SPEAK NATURALLY. LIKE EVERYBODY ELSE, I HAVE A CERTAIN NUMBER OF SIMPLE, WELL-ESTABLISHED CONVINCATIONS OF MY OWN WHICH I LIKE TO KEEP TO MYSELF. BUT THERE IS A POLITICAL LINE OF THE GOVERNMENT AND I AM THERE TO APPLY IT: THERE IS AN OVERALL STRATEGY TO ACHIEVE IT, WHICH IS REALLY NOT MINE TO CHOOSE. AND FINALLY, THERE ARE DAY-TO-DAY TACTICS TO WHICH I DEVOTE A GREAT DEAL OF TIME. SO, YOU SHOULD NOT BE SURPRISED IF I AM NO LONGER AS TRANSPARENT AS BEFORE. I PURSUE OBJECTIVES WHICH ARE THE OBJECTIVES OF FRANCE AND THAT NATURALLY COLORS ALL ASPECTS OF MY EFFORTS."

6. SUFFER
E E E E E E E

ADP000
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 PARIS 17865 02 OF 02 281926 Z

41
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 RSR-01 /079 W
----- 077722

O R 281756 Z JUN 73
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1394
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USMISSION USNATO
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
AMCONSUL BORDEAUX
AMCONSUL LYON
AMCONSUL MARSEILLE

AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE
AMCONSUL NICE
AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 PARIS 17865

7. SUFFERT THEN ASKED IF JOBERT RESPECTED MACHIAVELLI. JOBERT REPLIED, " I AM SUSPICIOUS OF ALL POLITICAL THEORIES... YOU KNOW ENOUGH ABOUT INTERNATIONAL POLITICS TO REALIZE THAT ONE OF THE GREAT PROBLEMS THAT THE ACTORS ENCOUNTER IS THEIR IGNORANCE OF THE TIME AND PLACE WHERE THE REAL BATTLES ARE DECIDED. THE PUBLIC IMAGINES THAT GREAT DISCORDS AND RECONCILIATIONS OCCUR AT THE BIG INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS, BUT THAT IS NOT ALWAYS TRUE... THE REAL GAME IS PLAYED OUT EARLIER, OFTEN ELSEWHERE. THAT IS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 PARIS 17865 02 OF 02 281926 Z

WHY IT IS ESSENTIAL TO DETERMINE THE PROPER MOMENT AND EXACT PLACE OF A CONFRONTATION AND, WHEN IT IS POSSIBLE, TO CHOOSE EACH ACCORDING TO YOUR OWN INTERESTS. IT IS PROBABLY FOR THAT REASON THAT IN INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS, I GENERALLY STAY IN THE BACKGROUND. I LOVE TO OBSERVE. I RESTRAIN MYSELF FROM TAKING A POSITION TOO SOON BECAUSE THERE IS NO SENSE IN SHUFFLING THE DECK BEFORE THE REAL GAME HAS BEGUN."

. INTERVIEW CONTINUED: SUFFERT: " YOUR POSITION IS REALLY NOT THAT DIFFICULT. IN THE END YOU TRY TO RESIST ALL AMERICAN PRESSURES AND EVERYONE IN FRANCE SUPPORTS YOU IN THAT SUBTLE CONFLICT." JOBERT: " THAT IS TRUE, IF YOU ARE SPEAKING OF PRESSURES AND WHERE THEY COME FROM. I AM CONVINCED IN ANY CASE THAT ANY FRENCH GOVERNMENT WHATEVER WOULD FOLLOW THE SAME POLICY AS THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT." SUFFERT: " BUT DO THE OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES FOLLOW YOU IN THAT LINE?" JOBERT: " THAT IS VERY SUBTLE, YOU KNOW. I KNOW THAT MANY PEOPLE THINK AS YOU DO TODAY, BUT THEY ARE MISTAKEN. EUROPE EXISTS MUCH MORE THAN EUROPEANS BELIEVE. CERTAINLY WE DON' T PUBLISH A COMMUNIQUE EVERY DAY AND WE ARE NOT BUILDING GREAT JUDICIAL CONSTRUCTIONS. AS TIME GOES ON, HOWEVER, WE TAKE MORE COMMON POSITIONS THAN YOU WOULD THINK. TAKE THE PROBLEM OF THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES, PLURAL NEGOTIATIONS. MR. KISSINGER CAME TO AGREE WITH ME." SUFFERT: " DOES HE (KISSINGER) INTIMIDATE YOU?" JOBERT: " WHY IN THE DEVIL WOULD YOU THINK HE INTIMIDATES ME?" SUFFERT: " DOES HE LISTEN TO YOU?" JOBERT: " AT FIRST HE HEARD ME, I THINK NOW HE IS BEGINNING TO LISTEN TO ME. WE SEE EACH OTHER OFTEN, ALMOST FOUR MEETINGS IN A MONTH." SUFFERT: " ARE YOU PATIENT?" JOBERT: " AND METHODICAL AS I HAVE ALREADY SAID. LET' S GO BACK TO MY SPEECH: IF THE NINE EUROPEAN COUNTRIES WERE TO SPEAK WITH A SINGLE VOICE THAT WOULD BE EXTREMELY GOOD. BUT SUPPOSE THE NINE, SPEAKING SEPARATELY, EACH SAY THE SAME THING, THAT WOULD PERHAPS BE STILL MORE IMPRESSIVE TO THE AMERICANS." SUFFERT: " DO YOU THINK YOU

WILL GET THERE? " JOBERT: " YOU' LL SEE."

9. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ABOUT GERMANY' S ROLE IN CHANGING
EUROPE, JOBERT SAID, " I NEVER PRETENDED THAT THINGS WERE
EASY. IF AT TIMES IN BRUSSELS OR LUXEMBOURG I TAKE A TONE
THAT IS A LITTLE STERN, IT IS BECAUSE, IN FACT, THERE IS A DANGER
THAT ONE DAY EUROPE WILL BREAK UP. THERE ARE TWO SIMULTANEOUS
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 PARIS 17865 02 OF 02 281926 Z

REALITIES: EUROPE EXISTS MORE THAN IT ITSELF BELIEVES
AND EUROPE IS MENACED IN ITS VERY EXISTENCE BY NEW CURRENTS
WHICH MUST BE METHODICALLY DAMMED. IN ORDER TO DO THAT WE
MUST MAKE USE OF CIRCUMSTANCES. AMERICAN PRESSURE, PARADOXICALLY,
CAN HELP US."

10. IN A FINAL QUESTION ABOUT HIS POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY, JOBERT WAS
ASKED IF HE CONSIDERED HIMSELF ON THE LEFT OR RIGHT. JOBERT:
" A CLASSIFICATION THAT IRRITATES ME. LET' S SAY THAT I DON' T
LIKE POLITICAL SALONS, THAT THE GREAT MAKE ME SMILE AND THAT
I VERY MUCH LIKE SIMPLE PEOPLE. WHEN I WAS A CHILD I LIVED
IN A LAND THAT WAS IMMENSE AND BARREN, AND I DREAMED AT NIGHT
THAT I WOULD ONE DAY BUILD A DAM IN THE MOUNTAINS TO BRING
WATER AND A FRESH SPIRIT TO THE MOST MISERABLE PEOPLE WHO
LIVED AMONG US. I BELIEVE THAT I SHALL DIE WITHOUT HAVING
BUILT MY DAM AND THAT WILL BE MY GREAT DISSAPOINTMENT."
DECONTROLLED 12/31/74.
IRWIN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNNNMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 JUN 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973PARIS17865
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730632/aaaajruw.tel
Line Count: 258
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21-Aug-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <21-Sep-2001 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> srp 980303
Subject: INTERVIEW BY FOREIGN MINISTER MICHEL JOBERT
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, FR
To: EUR
SECSTATE WASHDC INFO BORDEAUX
BRUSSELS
COPENHAGEN
MULTIPLE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

